



# 2013 Deer Trustee Report

## Public Action Team Implementation Proposal

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Action Team: <b>Regulations &amp; Season Structure</b>	Hunting Regulations, Seasons, & Bag Limits <b>B.10.</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Draft <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submitted	Deer Trustee Report Page 31

This document shows the original Deer Trustee Report recommendation that the Public Action Team considered when developing proposals for implementing the recommendation in Wisconsin. The Public Action Team's implementation proposal is then presented followed by a brief summary by the WDNR.

### **I. ORIGINAL DEER TRUSTEE REPORT RECOMMENDATION**

**B.10. Maintain the Bonus Buck Regulation in CWD Zone.** The EAB regulation was repealed by the Wisconsin Legislature in 2011 prior to the beginning of this evaluation. The regulation was highly effective in increasing antlerless harvest (Van Deelen et al. 2006), but was unpopular with hunters because of the requirement that an antlerless deer be harvested prior to taking a buck. Beginning in the 2011 hunting season, hunters in the CWD Zone were able to harvest either an antlered buck or an antlerless deer as their first deer. Hunters wishing to pursue additional deer including antlered bucks were able to do so under a Bonus Buck permit. Virginia uses a similar strategy on private lands by allowing hunters to first harvest a buck, but then requires the hunter to harvest at least one antlerless deer before a second buck can be taken. This strategy has been effective in increasing antlerless harvest and popular with hunters (<http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlife/deer/eab/>). The original EAB concept could be applied on private DMAP lands and even enhanced by requiring the harvest of two or more antlerless deer prior to taking a buck if the property owner so chooses. This is a common practice used on private lands in the southeastern United States.

### **II. PUBLIC ACTION TEAM PROPOSAL FOR IMPLEMENTING THE ABOVE RECOMMENDATION**

Below is the Public Action Team implementation proposal along with their rationale and supporting evidence, potential implementation obstacles and consideration of the proposal's potential impact on the overall deer management in Wisconsin.

#### 1. Action Team Implementation Proposal:

- Accept DTR recommendation B-10 as is, "Maintain Bonus Buck Regulation in CWD zone."

#### 2. Supporting data, references, rationale and other information behind it.

- A recommendation for the requirement of harvest 2 or more antlerless deer prior to being able to harvest a bonus buck was supported.
- A recommendation to extend the bonus buck statewide was not supported.
- Earn a buck was removed by legislation; bonus buck is the best tool for reduction of the deer herd remaining.

#### 3. Consider and describe potential implementation obstacles or drawbacks.

- If done statewide, this would cause more privatization of hunting land; all hunters would be able to kill more bucks.
- If done statewide, there would be a lot of political backlash as it may be viewed as "earn a buck."
- What if the CWD MZ disappears?



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4. Overall, how will this proposal simplify or complicate deer hunting, management, or research in Wisconsin.

*No comments submitted by the team.*

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